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Letter dated 1 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith the concept note regarding the briefing on counter-terrorism, which will be held in the Security Council on 27 September 2010 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the enclosed concept note were circulated as a document of the Security Council under the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts".

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note

Thematic meeting of the Security Council on counter-terrorism

Turkey, in its capacity as the President of the Security Council in September 2010, would like to hold a thematic meeting of the Security Council on counter-terrorism. The meeting is planned to be held on 27 September in a "briefing" format.

Background

The United Nations plays a central role in countering global terrorism. Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), adopted following the heinous attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States, constituted a milestone in the efforts exerted at the United Nations level. It identified a number of measures to be adopted and implemented by Member States and established the Counter-Terrorism Committee to monitor the implementation of those measures. Later in 2006 the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly, which was of significant importance to reaffirm the collective commitment of the international community to combat the common threat of terrorism.

Furthermore, all three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council related to counter-terrorism, namely the 1267, 1373 and 1540 Committees, have played important roles within their mandates and made considerable progress since their establishment. These Committees have increased, particularly in recent years, their effectiveness by rendering themselves more transparent, improving their working methods and placing more emphasis on human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism.

That said, after almost a decade since the adoption of the Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), and despite the determined endeavours by the United Nations and Member States, terrorism still continues today to be a serious threat to international peace and security. In some regions there has even been an increase in terrorist attacks and other illegal activities carried out by terrorist groups.

That is mainly because terrorism has an evolving nature. Terrorist organizations do not relent in adjusting and readjusting their tactics and techniques in organization and financing of and recruitment for their terrorist activities. For this reason, it is necessary for the international community to also adapt and evolve its response at the national, regional and global levels.

In this regard, it is equally important that we undertake this effort collectively. Indeed, for the fight against terrorism to succeed, there is an absolute need to act decisively, but to do so with a clear and common perspective. Terrorism, which can have no justification under any circumstances, is not a unique problem of a certain country or region. We are all exposed to this threat. Thus, a firm and united stance by all Member States is required.

Moreover, terrorism is a crime against humanity that violates fundamental human rights, particularly the right to life. Therefore, we should pay utmost

attention in order that terrorism, is not, under any circumstances, associated with any culture, religion or ethnic group. This only weakens our collective resolve and united stance in a way that plays into the hands of terrorists and extremists.

While countering terrorism, there is also a need to take into account the political, economic and social factors that terrorists exploit. It is also important that respect for human rights and the rule of law have a central place in all counter-terrorism efforts. In other words, the fight against terrorism should be a joint effort with a holistic approach and long-term dedication. Our resolve to fight this scourge should be firm and unyielding, while our responses must be innovative and adaptable to changing circumstances.

It is within this frame of mind that Turkey, in its capacity as the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, organized a meeting on 17 June 2010 in Ankara. The meeting, which was held with the participation of the members of the Security Council and relevant United Nations officials, set the stage for a focused discussion on the increasing challenges emanating from the threat of terrorism and how to more effectively address them at the United Nations level.

We would like to recall that an informal summary note by the Chairman of the meeting was circulated earlier to the members of the Security Council. One of the main points emphasized by the participants at that meeting was that countering terrorism needs to be kept as a priority on the international agenda and more political attention should be given to the fight against this scourge at the level of the Security Council.

It has been argued that Council's continued attention in addressing this threat could serve as a deterrent in itself, while providing a renewed impetus and new ideas to the efforts to redress the gaps that hamper the effectiveness of the combat against terrorism. The guidance and direction that may come from the Council in this respect are considered to be of paramount importance.

Objective

With this understanding, Turkey, as the host country of the Ankara meeting, expressed its intention to further pursue the discussions in New York. In fact, the thematic meeting proposed to be held in September in the Security Council would be organized as a follow-up to the discussions in Ankara and in the light of the views and suggestions raised there. At the thematic meeting, we would suggest to:

- recognize the efforts, activities and achievements of the relevant United Nations bodies, including the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, and encourage such efforts
- focus on the gaps and challenges in the implementation of the obligations identified in relevant resolutions
- deliberate on the issues that need more attention by the Security Council
- discuss what steps or measures should and could be taken by the Security Council to better address the challenges.

Outcome

It is our intention, at the end of the thematic meeting, to have a presidential statement adopted that would send a strong message confirming the importance of

reinforced international cooperation and the determination of the Security Council in the fight against terrorism, and call upon Member States to work more closely with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the obligations indicated in the relevant resolutions and seamless cooperation among all Member States.